

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 01384 151300Z

60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-07

EUR-12 /076 W

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R 151205Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3495

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1384

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, MARR, BA, US

SUBJECT : PRIME MINISTER ON TOUR: COULD WE GET A LITTLE HELP
FROM OUR FRIENDS?

1. IT STRIKES US THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO CONSIDER REQUESTING THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENTS, BOTH OF WHICH REGULARLY NOW UTTER STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE STATEMENTS REGARDING THE US ROLE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF BAHRAIN DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISITS. SINCE HE APPARENTLY DOESN'T GET MUCH POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM OUR ARAB AND IRANIAN FRIENDS IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION, IT MIGHT STRIKE HIM AS INTERESTING THAT GOVERNMENTS OTHER THAN OURS CARE SOMETHING FOR OUR PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THEY MIGHT EVEN BE ASKED TO SUGGEST TO SHAIKH KHALIFA THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO THROW THE US NAVY OUT OF BAHRAIN.

2. SITTING AT THE AIRPORT EARLY THIS MORNING TO SEE OFF THE PRIME MINISTER, WE HEARD AN ELOQUENT STATEMENT OF BAHRAINI "RESPECT", "ADMIRATION" FOR THE NEW PRIME MINISTERS OF BOTH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND FROM THE AMIR OF BAHRAIN. SECOND ONLY " TO OUR GOOD FRIENDS THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICANS", BOTH OF WHOM ARE APPARENTLY FIRST IN HIS EYES, "COME THE AUSTRALIANS", HE ALLOWED. "WE PARTICULARLY ADMIRE FRASER'S TOUGHNESS -- HIS WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK UP ON UNPOPULAR ISSUES".

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3. UNLESS IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE BY THE DEPARTMENT

TO ASK OUR FRIENDS FOR SOME HELP, WE CAN'T SEE THEIR COMMENTS TO
SHAIKH KHALIFA DOING ANY HARM AND THEY MIGHT DO AN INCREMENTAL
AMOUNT OF GOOD.

BURLEIGH

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NNN

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